

WASHINGTON, D.C. –The House Majority approved an amendment yesterday introduced by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) to help struggling families stay in their homes. The amendment encourages banks to provide loan modifications and foreclosure prevention help to qualifying homeowners.

Rep. Sanchez' amendment (H.R. 839) was accepted by House Republicans and included in the final bill, which passed the House last night by a vote of 252-170. The bill now goes to the Senate.

H.R. 839, the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) Termination Act, seeks to end critical assistance to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Although her amendment was accepted, Rep. Sanchez urged her Republican colleagues in Congress to reconsider their bid to eliminate HAMP, which has already helped nearly 600,000 families stay in their homes, and instead make improvements to the program.

“With the recovery just beginning to take hold, Republicans should not cut off a lifeline to responsible homeowners struggling to keep up with their mortgage payments,” said Rep. Sanchez. “Even though I do not agree with the elimination of the home loan modification program by Republicans, I am hopeful that my amendment shows the importance of both the private and public sectors in finding a solution to help even more families in Orange County and across the country stay in their homes.”